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tion. In the city of Poona there has been a decline in the epidemic, and in the districts of Poona, Dharwar, Ahmednagar, and Nasik a slighter decrease, while in the Belgaum and Satara districts, and in the South Mahratta States there has been an increase. In the other parts of India no decided change has been observed in the status of the epidemic. In Calcutta, 44 plague deaths were reported ; preceding week, 45.

Other advices give the following total deaths for the city of Bombay for the fourteen weeks from June 14 to September 19: 482, 513, 486, 516, 485, 610, 679, 571, 570, 593, 673, 606, 631, 670. Of these, the plague deaths were as follows: 53, 50, 43, 62, 53, 68, 64, 75, 64, 95, 96, 87, 94. The number of plague cases during the same period was as follows: 43, 46, 59, 59, 78, 73, 76, 89, 94, 86, 93, 145, 73; 113.

MADAGASCAR—*Tamatave*.—According to advices of October 6, no plague cases have been observed since September 12.

CHOLERA.

BRITISH EAST INDIES—*Calcutta*.—During the week ended September 16 there were 2 cholera deaths.

DISEASE RESEMBLING PLAGUE.

[Translated in this Bureau from La Habana Medica, September, 1899.]

Dr. Favre of Charkow, in Aksch, a province of Oriental Siberia, adjoining the Chinese frontier, states that for some years past a disease has prevailed there which is completely identical with plague in its clinical development and differs from it only that up to the present time it has never occurred in an epidemic form except in small foci, and then only as a domestic disease. The disease apparently has its origin in a species of rodent called sarbagan (*arctomys bobac*) which is indigenous to that locality. This sarbaganic plague has never so far been scientifically studied. It should now receive attention as the territory it occupies will enter into communication with the rest of the world as soon as the Siberian railway goes into operation.

Rats the chief disseminators of plague.

A London cable of October 3 says: "Dr. Manson, in the course of his inaugural address to the School for Tropical Medicine, caused a sensation by declaring that the ordinary rat is responsible for the majority of plague outbreaks. He says that rats are peculiarly subject to infection, and if one arrived at the port of London on a ship hailing from a plague port and died here the body would teem with plague bacilli. This would be eaten by other rats or fleas that would transfer themselves to other rats, which would in turn become infected with the plague. At the present juncture," he continued, "were I the responsible sanitary head of any town in Europe I would, in anticipation of this possibility, compared with which the horror and destructiveness of a general European war would be a trifle, do my utmost to have every rat, and, if possible, every mouse in my district promptly exterminated." In view of Dr. Manson's position and reputation, for it was he who first suggested that mosquitoes are responsible for malaria, the papers seriously discussed and the idea started for a universal raid on rats in all the large seaports of England.